

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 'N' Street – Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
Phone: (916) 654-0462

MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2009

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at approximately 10:07a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by Al Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director

Present:

Al Montna	Karen Ross	Arlan Van Leeuwen
Ashley Boren	Kerry Tucker	Craig McNamara
Daniel Dooley	Adan Ortega, Jr.	Donald Valpredo
Donald Bransford	David Wehner	
Marvin Meyers	Michael Darnell	

Absent:

Luawanna Hallstrom Thomas Deardorff II

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 17, 2008

MOTION: Board member Dan Dooley moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Board member Karen Ross seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD:

The Board had four presentations which provided an overview of the Delta Vision, the statewide drought and water delivery limitations.

Speakers included:

- Secretary Mike Chrisman, California Natural Resources Agency
- Director Lester Snow, California Department of Water Resources
- Dr. Richard Howitt, Agricultural and Resource Economics, U.C. Davis
- Cornelius (Corny) Gallagher, California Bankers Association

(5) PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

The Board conducted three panel discussions focusing on the impact of the statewide drought and water delivery limitations. Panel discussions included representatives from the farming sector, city/county government and local community businesses.

FIRST PANEL

The first panel discussion was conducted with growers and processors concerning the impacts of the statewide drought and water delivery limitations.

Speakers included:

- John Harris, Harris Ranch
- Stuart Woolf, Woolf Farming
- Steve Patricio, Westside Produce
- Chris Rufer, Morning Star Company
- Bill Diedrich, Diedrich's Ag Spray

SECOND PANEL

The second panel discussion was conducted with county and city representatives concerning the impacts of the statewide drought and water delivery limitations.

Speakers included:

- The Honorable Phil Larson, Fresno County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Robert Silva, Mayor of the City of Mendota
- Jose Antonio Ramirez, City Manager, City of Firebaugh

THIRD PANEL

The third panel discussion was conducted with local community businesses concerning the statewide drought and water delivery limitations

Speakers included:

- Dana Wilkie, Community Food Bank
- Martin MckIntyre, San Luis Water District
- Nat Dellavalle, Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.

MOTION: President Al Montna moved to entertain a motion to allow Board member Adan Ortega to develop and finalize a letter to Secretary Kawamura on the Board's behalf regarding impacts of the statewide drought and water delivery limitations. Board member Dan Dooley made the motion with a second by Board member Ashley Boren. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

(6) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Three individuals provided public comments:

Ara Azhderian, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, highlighted comments and statistics from the meeting and urged budget reform to unlock bond funding to fix the Delta and approve water transfers.

Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau, spoke on the water supply situation in San Diego County. Within San Diego County there are a large number of small farms which have little elasticity in water use. The needs of different agricultural communities must be taken into account when considering action on the overall state water supply.

Dan Merkley, California Farm Bureau Federation, spoke on the organization's concurrence with improved water conveyance, water rights and area of origin issues.

(7) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:42 p.m.